

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 6-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 11, 16-19 and 22 are allowed, and claims 3, 6, 8-10 and 13-15 are objected to but would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of their base claims. By the above amendment, claims 3, 6, 8-10 and 13-15 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 20, 21 and 23 have been cancelled.

In view of the above amendment, the only claims remaining in this application have been allowed or indicated to be allowable if amended as above. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 3, 6, 8-11, 13-19 and 22 are now in condition for allowance. Wherefore the reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

**Conclusion**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees


required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

  
MKM/STW/jeb  
1560-0374P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000